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HAVERHILL URBAN DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1942.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Haverhill Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1942.

At the present moment a comprehensive and detailed Report cannot be submitted.

It is, however, satisfactory to record that the general health of the District has, notwithstanding difficult circumstances, continued to be good.

Arrangements have been made for the preservation of records and statistics supplied by the Registrar General in order that, after the termination of the war, a fuller Report containing separate statistics for each year may be available.

Arthur Morgan,

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area of the District --- 2,530 acres.

Rateable Value -- £16,222.

Sum represented by a penny rate -- £62.

The principal industry is the manufacture of ready made clothing, gloves, mats, textile fabrics, etc. The town is a centre for the surrounding villages and a market is held weekly.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births:-	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate.	46.	17.	29.
Illegitimate.	4.	1.	3.
Totals.	50.	18.	32.

Birth Rate per thousand population --- 12.8.
Birth Rate per thousand population (Engalnd & Wales) -- 15.8.

Still Births ------ Nil.

Deaths:-	Total.	Male.	Female.
	54.	23.	31.

Death Rate per thousand population --- --- --- 13.8.
Death Rate per thousand population (England & Wales) ---11.6.

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

(a) Puerperal sepsis ----------Nil.
(b) Other puerperal causes ------ 1.

Rate per thousand total (live & still births) --- 20.0.

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age:-

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	2.	1.	1.
Illegitimate.	-	-	-

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per thousand live births ----------40.0.
Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births - 43.4.
Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births--Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ---- 10.
Deaths from measles (all ages) ---- Nil.
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages) ---- Nil.
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ---- Nil.
Deaths from influenza(all ages) ---- Nil.

/Birth

Birth and Death Rates for the last four years:-

	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.
Birth Rates.	9.9	14.2	14.4	13.2.
Death Rates.	13.1.	19.5.	15.0.	14.7.

Note:- The Death Rates are uncorrected for age and sex distribution.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

There is no alteration in the general arrangements.

Public Health Offices of the Authority:-

(a) A whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other districts.

(b) Mr. J.H. Clarke, of Haverhill, is Housing Officer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector. The appointment is a whole time one. Mr. Clarke holds the Testamur of Municipal and County Engineers and the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Hospitals:-

The small isolation hospital of ten beds is now used for other purposes. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are usually sent to the Newmarket Rural District (Cambs) Isolation Hospital.. The charge is £2.12.6. a week. There is no definite arrangement with the Newmarket R.D.C. to take the cases but, hitherto, no difficulties have been experienced. So far as general hospitals are concerned; Addenbrooks Hospital, Cambridge, and the West Suffolk General Hospital are available. A motor ambulance, provided by public subscription, is available for dealing with cases of ordinary illness and accident.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water supply:-

The town has a piped supply of water from the Council's Waterworks. So far the supply has been adequate. Bacteriological and chemical analyses indicate that the water is of a high standard of purity, but is very hard. It is hoped that, when circumstances permit, the question of installing a softening plant will again be considered.
The average daily consumption of water per head of population is 24 gallons. A record is kept of the rainfall.

An open air swimming bath was constructed in 1930, it is well situated in the centre of the town. The water is filtered and chlorinated. Bacteriological examinations of the water are satisfactory.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:-

The sewage disposal works consist of screening, detritus, storm water, two collecting and two settling tanks, contact and percolating filters, with final treatment on six acres of land, all underdrained, of which about 3 acres is terraced. The effluent discharges into a tributary of the river Stour.

/Scavenging.

Scavenging:-

Collections are made weekly and the refuse disposed of by controlled tipping. The provision of sanitary dustbins is now compulsory.

Sanitary Inspection of the area:-
Number of inspections ---------- 1021.

Housing: Little can be said under this heading, essential repairs have been carried out as far as possible. The matter is, however, one that will need urgent attention if a satisfactory standard of housing is to be maintained.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Ten cases of scarlet fever, six of pneumonia, and one (fatal) of encephalitis lethargica were notified. There were no notifications of measles or whooping cough.
Four of the scarlet fever cases were sent to the Newmarket Rural District Council (Cambs) Isolation Hospital. The others were isolated at home.
Measles and whooping cough are now notifiable. Regulations to this effect came into operation on October 23rd. 1939. The number of cases notified since that date is as follows:-

	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.
Measles.	Nil.	Nil.	213.	Nil.
Whooping cough.	Nil.	Nil.	32.	Nil.

In 1941 there was one death attributed to measles and one to whooping cough.

Diphtheria Immunisation:- Free immunisation is carried out at the schools in the area and is available for school children and children under school age. The work was commenced early in February 1941 and has been rendered possible by the co-operation of the County Medical Officer of Health, the County Education Authority, and the Staff of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Two injections of A.P.T. are given and the material is obtained free of charge from the Emergency Public Health Laboratory. No Schick testing has been done. At the end of December 1942 it was estimated that 92% of children under school age and 83% of children of school age had been fully protected.
So far as the non-notifiable infectious diseases are concerned there is nothing of importance to record. Cases of scabies are treated at the Cleansing Centre in the town by means of benzyl benzoate. Twenty one cases received treatment. The method adopted has proved to be quite effectual.
Bacteriological examinations:- These are carried out at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge.
Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free of charge to Medical Practitioners.

Tuberculosis:- Three notifications of tuberculosis have been received (two female pulmonary cases aged respectively 48 and 18, and one non-pulmonary case aged 6 years). Two deaths were recorded (one pulmonary female aged 48, and one non-pulmonary male aged 6). There have been no deaths of non-notified cases.
No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

/Factories

Factories & Workshops:-

There are 16 premises classified as Factories and 27 as Workshops. Seventy five inspections have been made.

(SIGNED) ARTHUR MORGAN.
M.A. M.R.C.S. D.P.H.